



FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

FROM BURTONS BRIDGE TO FOX BLUFF

Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
McHenry County Water Forum | September 12, 2018



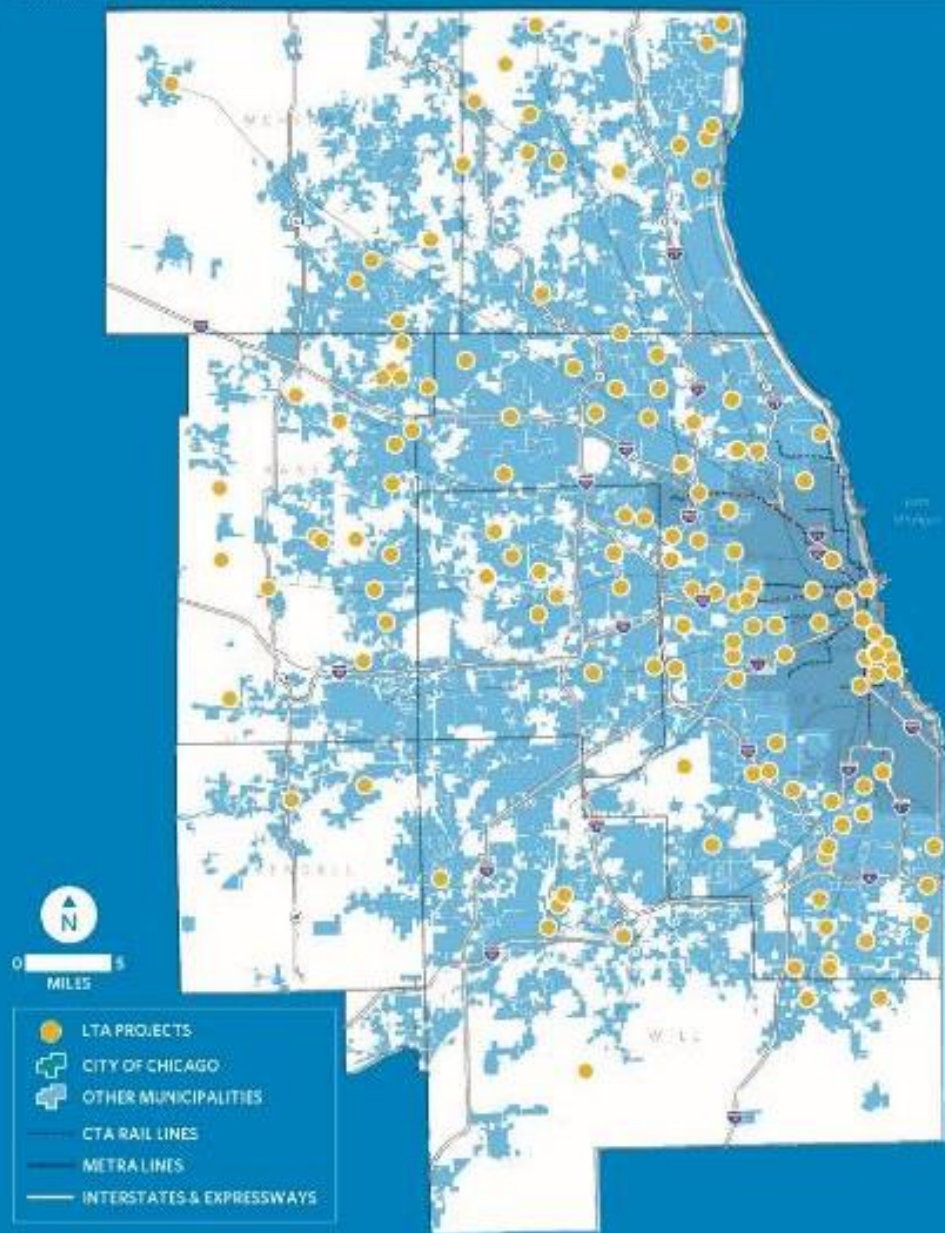
- Official regional planning organization and MPO for northeastern Illinois
- Adopted GO TO 2040 regional plan in 2010
- Developing ON TO 2050 regional plan



**CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY
FOR PLANNING**

LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Local Technical Assistance Projects



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2013

CMAA



Fox River Corridor Plan

from Burtons Bridge to Fox Bluff

August 2018 - DRAFT

THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

Establishes a vision for the next 10 to 15 years.

Outline the steps needed to meet that goal.

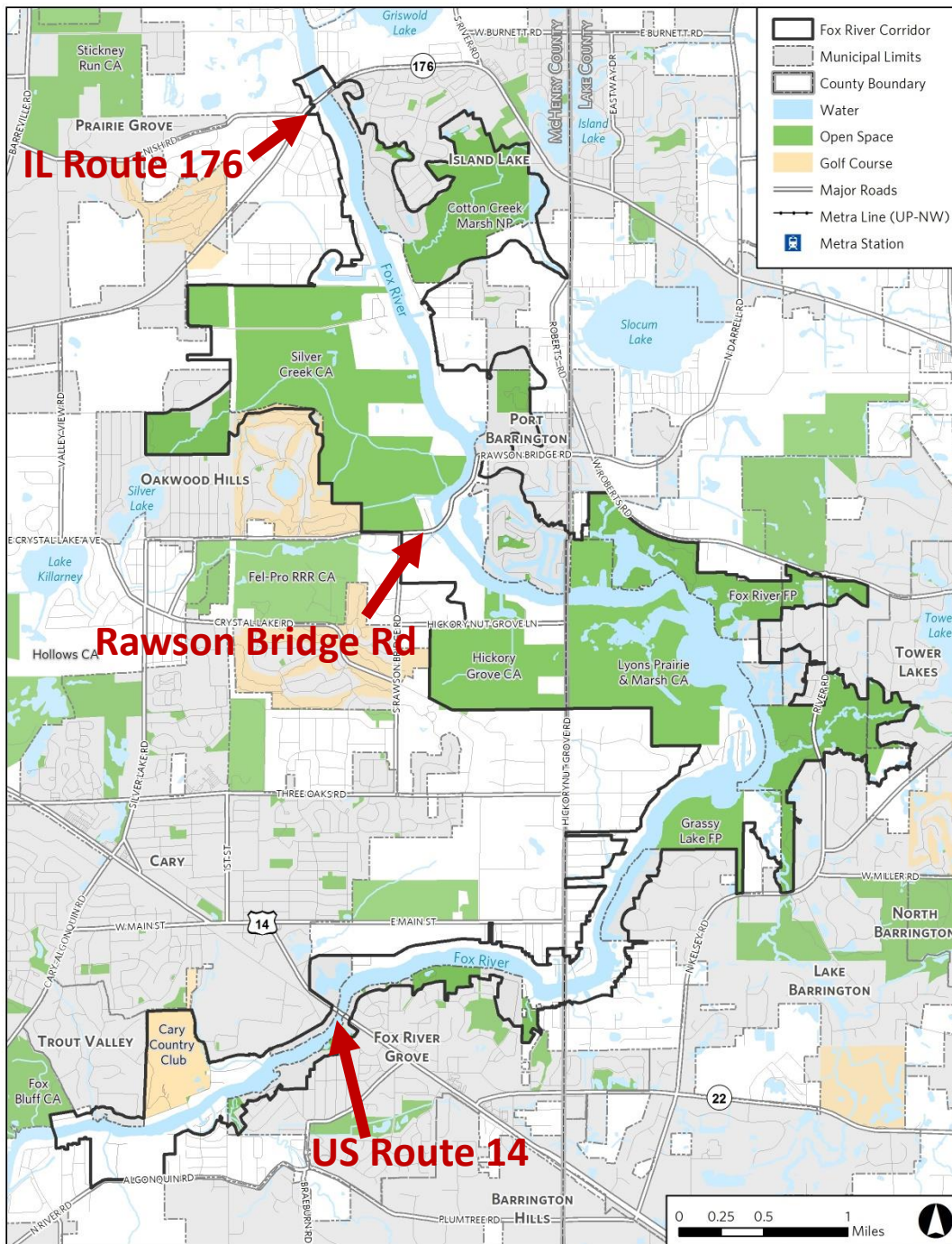
Builds on existing plans, water trail

Helps set priorities, coordinate decision-making, and obtain grants

The Fox River Watershed



THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN STUDY AREA



Burtons Bridge
Cary
Fox River Grove
Island Lake
Lake Barrington
Oakwood Hills
Port Barrington
Trout Valley

Cary Country Club
Cotton Creek Marsh
Fox River FP
Grassy Lake FP
Hickory Grove CA
Lyons Prairie & Marsh CA
Silver Creek CA
Wagner Fen

Collaboration between CMAP and McHenry County Planning & Development



**Funding: Federal Highway Administration,
Illinois EPA, NOAA, among others**

Steering Committee:

Cary Park District

**Environmental Defenders of McHenry
County**

**Flint Creek and Spring Creek Watershed
Partnership**

Fox River Study Group

Fox Waterway Agency

Illinois DNR

Lake County

Lake County Forest Preserves

McHenry County

McHenry County Bicycle Advocates

McHenry County Conservation District

Village of Cary

Village of Fox River Grove

Village of Lake Barrington

Village of Oakwood Hills

Village of Port Barrington

Village of Trout Valley

Visit McHenry County

THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN



Fox River Corridor in McHenry and Lake Counties



Existing Conditions Overview
October 2017

EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Community Outreach

**Water Quality and
Flooding**

**Open Space, Habitat,
and Recreation**

**Transportation and
Access**

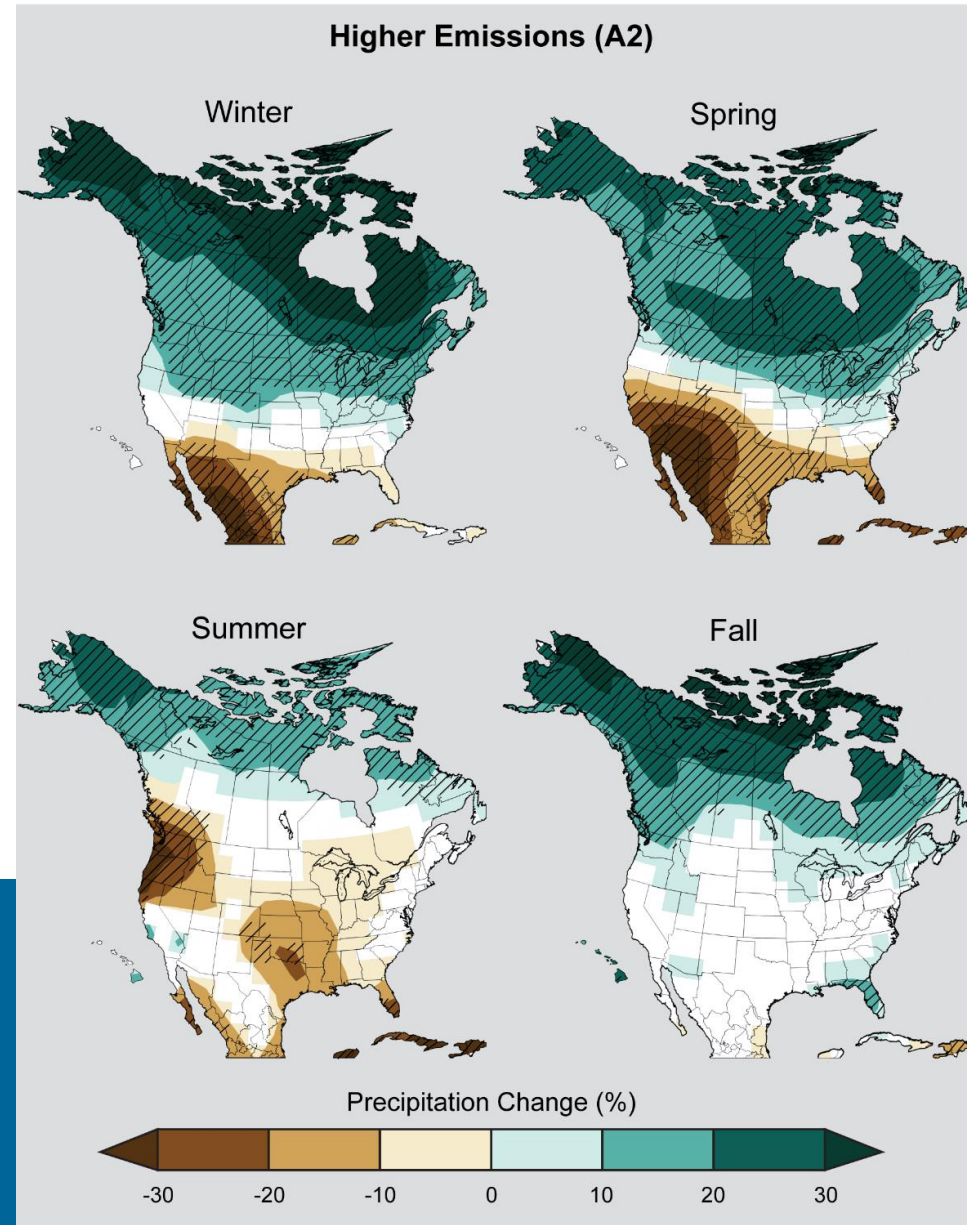
Economic Development

Climate Vulnerability

Projected Precipitation Change by Season

- Flooding
- River/business closures
- Decreased baseflow affecting surface water supplies and aquatic habitat
- Less aquifer recharge
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity

CLIMATE RESILIENCE





ENGAGEMENT

Broad themes:

- Preserve the scenic beauty and environment
- Balance a mix of activities
- Provide more public riverfront access, but no river trail
- Attract more family-friendly businesses and activities



ENGAGEMENT

Top five ideas from public visioning workshop:

1. Sediment management & dredging
2. Boater safety education
3. Water quality & environmental education
4. Stormwater management
5. Keep river as a local resource

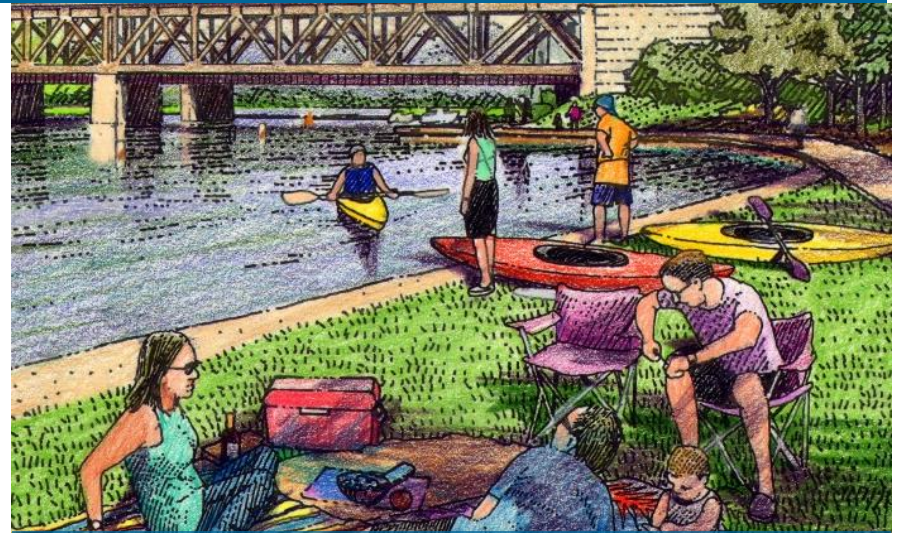
- Create a **healthy, safe, and accessible** river environment.
- **Balance the preservation and recreational use** of the Fox River and connected natural areas.
- Foster a culture of appreciation and **stewardship** among residents, businesses, and river users.
- Preserve the area's **rural and local character**.
- Enhance the **vibrancy** of the riverfront and nearby commercial and downtown areas.
- Protect high quality and diverse **habitats**.
- Strengthen **resilience** to the effects of climate change to better withstand floods, droughts, and other impacts.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLAN

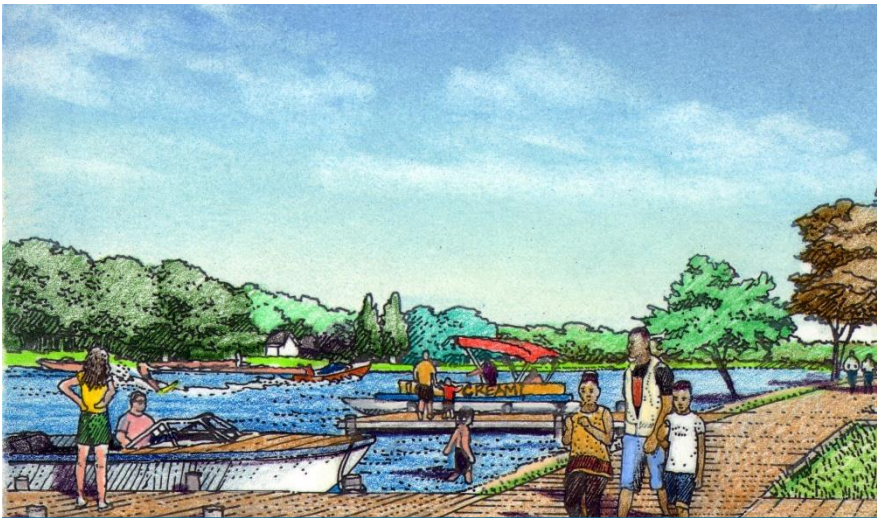
PLAN RECOMMENDATION AREAS



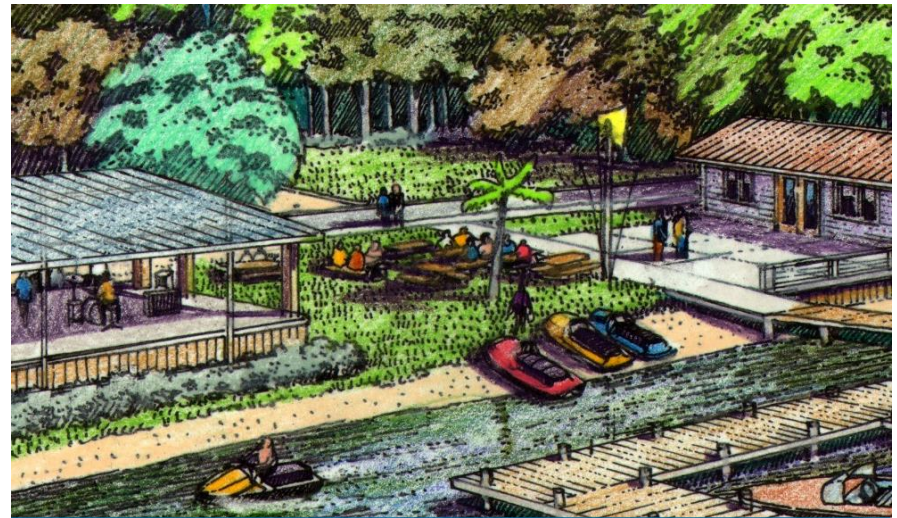
NATURAL RESOURCES



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE



**NON-MOTORIZED
TRANSPORTATION**



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PLACEMAKING**



Fox Valley
Sustainability
Network

Fox River Study Group

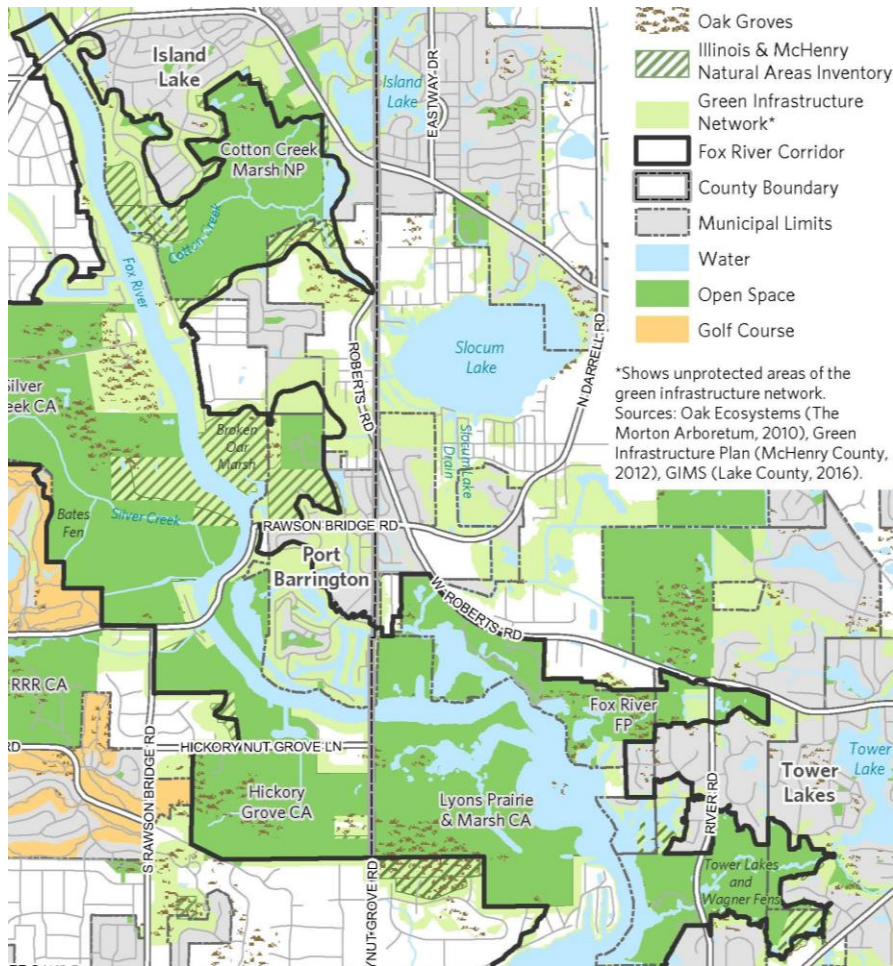
Fabulous Fox Water Trail

Watershed
groups



NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collaborate to leverage resources and maximize impact.
 - Support existing cross-jurisdictional groups.
 - Tailor outreach to meet the needs of the Fox River corridor.



• Protect and restore green infrastructure.

- Strengthen local ordinances and plans.
- Target green infrastructure expansion and management.
- Improve stormwater management and erosion control.

NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Maintain and enhance groundwater resources.**
 - Adopt groundwater protection ordinances.
 - Use McHenry County Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area (SARA) map and BACOG data identify sensitive areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS



OTHER WATER-RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote best practices in boat operations and maintenance.
- Improve waterway capacity and water quality through sediment control and management.
- Pursue responsible river-oriented economic development.

CMAP



Fox River Corridor Plan from Burtons Bridge to Fox Bluff

August 2018 - DRAFT

**Public comment
period closes
September 20
(email Kate Evasic).**

**Revision, review,
and adoption by
the McHenry
County Board.**

**Assess priority
actions for
implementation.**

NEXT STEPS

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lt/fox-river-mchenry-lake>

www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/lta/call-for-projects



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**LTA Call for Projects open now through
October 28, 2018**



ON TO 2050

An aerial night view of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of streets and buildings illuminated by city lights. The skyline is visible in the distance against a dark sky with some clouds. The text 'Inclusive Growth' is overlaid in large white letters.

Inclusive Growth

Grow the economy through opportunity for all

Resilience

A vibrant, sunny day on a paved multi-use trail. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a grey polo shirt walks towards the camera. Next to him, a woman in a blue tank top and sunglasses walks, with a young girl on a purple bicycle beside her. To the right, a woman in a blue t-shirt and sunglasses walks. Further right, a man in a red shirt and blue baseball cap walks. On the far right, a man in a bright green safety vest and black cap rides a bicycle towards the camera. In the background, several other people are walking and cycling, including a man in a white hoodie and a woman in a pink shirt. The path is flanked by green grass and trees, with shadows cast across the pavement.

Prepare for rapid changes,
both known and unknown

Prioritized Investment



Target resources to maximize benefits

**Community
Prosperity
Environment
Governance
Mobility**

Environment Chapter Highlights

- **Calls for the protection of high-priority natural areas throughout the region and renews discussions on funding sources for land acquisition and stewardship.**
- **Calls on local land use plans to acknowledge and protect natural lands and water resources and minimize development impacts through design process.**
- **Encourages planners and water utilities to work together to understand future water demand and supply constraints, and adopt water conservation strategies to reduce water use.**

Celebrate in Millennium Park

October 10

RSVP

www.cmap.illinois.gov





THANK YOU!

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